

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of  
3 the State of Illinois wish to congratulate Jess McDonald on  
4 the occasion of his retirement as the Director of Children  
5 and Family Services after 9 years of service; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald was appointed Director of Children  
7 and Family Services by Governor George Ryan and has served  
8 continuously since June 2, 1994; as Director, Mr. McDonald  
9 was responsible for overseeing the activities of a \$1.3  
10 billion cabinet level child welfare agency serving 32,000  
11 children; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald has served as a DCFS caseworker,  
13 legislative analyst for the Appropriations and Human  
14 Resources Committee of the Illinois House of Representatives,  
15 Executive Deputy Director of DCFS, chief of the Health and  
16 Social Services Division in the Illinois Bureau of the  
17 Budget, and the Governor's Assistant for Human Services; he  
18 served as Executive Director for the Illinois Association of  
19 Community Mental Health Agencies from January 1991 to March  
20 1992; in March of 1992, Governor Edgar named Mr. McDonald the  
21 Director of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities to  
22 spearhead major reforms at that agency, and he held that  
23 position until he became Director of DCFS; and

24 WHEREAS, Under Director McDonald's leadership, the  
25 Illinois DCFS received several accolades including the  
26 Adoption 2002 Excellence Award in Increased Adoptions by the  
27 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for 1998 and  
28 1999; accredited agency status from the Council on  
29 Accreditation for Children and Family Services in 2000; the  
30 Innovations in American Government Award for performance  
31 contracting in child welfare, sponsored by Harvard University  
32 and the Ford Foundation; and it was named State Agency of the

1 Year by the National Foster Parent Association in 1998; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald holds a bachelor's degree from  
3 Illinois State University, a master's degree from the  
4 University of Chicago School of Social Service  
5 Administration, and he participated in Harvard University's  
6 John F. Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior  
7 Executives in State and Local Government; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald is a member of several professional  
9 organizations including the Executive Committee of the  
10 National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators,  
11 chair of the Child and Family Services Committee of the  
12 American Public Human Services Association, and the Board of  
13 the Council on Social Work Education; he had previously  
14 served as the co-chair of the American Public Human Services  
15 Association Child Welfare Financing Workgroup and served on  
16 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National  
17 Consultation Workgroup on Child Welfare Outcome Measures; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald valiantly served his country in the  
19 U.S. Army from 1964 until 1966 with a tour in Vietnam from  
20 1965 to 1966; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald is the recipient of numerous  
22 individual awards including the Citizen of the Year Award  
23 from the National Association of Social Workers Illinois  
24 Chapter Southern Illinois District in 2002; the University of  
25 Chicago Professional Achievement Citation in 1999; the  
26 Service and Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to  
27 Foster Parents in Illinois from the National Foster Parent  
28 Association, Inc. in 1998; the Social Worker of the Year  
29 Award from the Springfield Illinois Chapter of the National  
30 Association of Social Workers in 1998; the Motorola Award for  
31 Excellence in Public Services in 1997; and the Award of  
32 Excellence in Public Child Welfare Administration from the

1 National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators  
2 in 1996; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we commend Director Jess McDonald on his hard work and  
6 dedication to the children of Illinois and congratulate him  
7 on the occasion of his retirement after nine years of service  
8 as the Director of Children and Family Services; and be it  
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to Jess McDonald as a token of our respect and  
12 esteem and with best wishes for his future endeavors.